

the diamond

Vol. XIII, No. 7

Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

January 16, 1970

John Olthuis Points

103 Dordt Seniors

Out Hidden Home Invaders

To Practice Teach

The third lecture of the AACCS sponsored Discovery I series held on Tuesday, January 14, featured Mr. John A. Olthuis on the topic "Hidden Invaders in our Homes."

Mr. Olthuis is a graduate of the University of Alberta and did graduate work in the field of law. At the present he is working, in a legal capacity, with various Christian organizations. He is also Executive Director of the AACCS.

The purpose of this lecture, according to Olthuis, was to attempt to see those visions which lead us astray from the vision of the coming of the Kingdom. In his lecture he he enumerated five potential invaders; the marriage relationship, the state, the christian school, the instituted church, and the business community.

The first invader he treated was the marriage relationship. The family relationship Olthuis said, must be worked at in the time it takes to build the trust relationship so that it can lead children in the unfolding of the vision of the Kingdom of God. Parents must balance the time spent with family and with non-family activities. If parents don't have the trust of their children, other visions, like those of TV personalities, will attract the children.

The state is another invader since, according to Olthuis, "it does not commit itself to seeking the coming of the Kingdom." "It believes in the democratic way of life, which is a religious vision." It expects that "a Christian must forsake Christianity and join the community of reasonable men."

Its prophets, Olthuis says, are legislation, labor and political parties, all of which support the "democratic way of death."

"In Christian Schools, children can see the unity of life and be prepared to the proper role of life." Olthuis stated. But Christian schools can limit and distort the vision; first, by pointing inadvertently to wrong goals; second, by becoming isolation wards where children are given doses of Christian medicine to ward off the world; and third, by having a secular program with "a little bit of Jesus sprinkled on top." Christian schools, Olthuis added, "must complement Christian families."

"The instituted church is perhaps the most hidden invader." The church, he said, "is accepting the place given to it by the democratic way of death." "The most important role of the church is opening Scripture for men's lives, and in the measure that the church does not do this, all areas of life suffer."

The business community also came under attack from Olthuis. According to him, it is concerned only with attaining its own utopia, which lies in consumption. The prophets of business are the advertisements on radio, TV, (Please turn to page 2)

Dordt College will send more than one hundred practice teachers into northwest Iowa schools during the first part of the second semester. Representing eighty per cent of the senior class, these students will be observing and teaching in every grade level from kindergarten to grade twelve in public and private school systems.

Dr. James Veltkamp, Director of Practice Teaching, placed the exact number of student teachers at 103, with 43 going to secondary schools and 60 going to elementary schools. The seniors will be involved in the fields English and speech, history and social studies, mathematics, physical education, German, music and biology. The total number of student teachers involved in the program is the same as last year, but following a pattern that has been established in recent years, a higher percentage will be placed in the elementary grades.

The students will leave Dordt on January 26 and return to classes on March 9. During this time they will work closely with experienced teachers, observing them and in turn being observed by them. Fourteen professors from Dordt, acting as supervisors, will be aiding the practice teachers. "The idea behind this program," Dr. Veltkamp states, "is

to get the practice teachers involved in as many school activities as possible for the six-week period."

Since the public and Christian schools are under no obligation to participate in college teacher education programs, placement of the Dordt seniors involves personal contact with many school superintendents, principals, and individual teachers. Dr. Veltkamp, who speaks and corresponds with educators from as far distant as 70 miles, reports that response in this area has been very good. Seventy per cent of the Dordt practice teachers have been accepted by public schools and the rest by Christian schools.

Commenting on the increasing number of Dordt students who are participating in elementary education rather than second (Please turn to page 2)

Concordia Band

To Swing Campus

The seventy-five piece Concordia College Band under the direction of J. Robert Hanson will appear at the Dordt College Auditorium - Gymnasium on Monday, January 19,

at 1:30 P.M. There will be an admission charge of 25 cents.

A wide variety of selections is featured on the program for the 1969-70 concert tour, including works of all periods as well as the standard military marches. This is Dr. Hanson's third year in conducting the band. Under the direction of the late Professor J. A. Holvik, the band gained international acclaim through extensive tours, including a trip to Norway in 1935.

Dr. Hanson, a former trumpet soloist with the Concordia Band under its previous directors, came to Concordia from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. While here he directed the University Band for seven years, and also played first trumpet in the Milwaukee Symphony under some of the nation's leading conductors. He is also known in the area of composition and holds a Ph.D. in that field from the University of Iowa.

Westerhof To

Discuss Race

The Lecture Committee has invited Mr. Carl Westerhof, an intern pastor at the Lawndale Christian Reformed Church in Chicago, to speak on campus Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29. The main lecture will be Wednesday evening and other events will be posted.

Mr. Westerhof's topic will be the general attitude of Christians toward race and how this attitude is reflected in the situation in Timothy Christian School in Cicero Illinois.

Concert Series

Features Corman

The Corman will be featured as the third event in the 1969-70 concert series sponsored by the Sioux County Concert Association. They will perform January 19 in the Northwestern College Auditorium.

Robert De Cormier, famed for his De Cormier Singers who have appeared in previous concert series, has produced The Corman, eight carefully trained professional singers. De Cormier, musical director and arranger of many Broadway

shows, has made the ensemble unique in that he has brought musical theatre and choral appearance together to make a very pleasing program. The first half of the program will present standard male choral literature. The second half, arranged as is typical of De Cormier, will present tavern songs from around the world and a group of unusual material and songs from the Broadway stage.

The concert begins at 8:00pm and admission is by season ticket only. jr

Shakespeare

Troupe Visits

Sioux Center

The National Shakespeare Company from New York will present William Shakespeare's famous tragedy Macbeth at the Sioux Center community school on Thursday, February 12.

Advance tickets for the performance will be on sale beginning Friday, January 30. Reserved seat tickets will then be available at Bosch's Clothing for \$2.00 a piece. General admission tickets of \$1.50 each, which will provide a seat on the bleachers, will be sold on campus and at the community school.

Taking place in Elizabethan England, Macbeth is the story of a man who, urged by his ambitious wife, murders his trusting king, Duncan, and becomes king himself. Throughout the play, Macbeth is haunted by the horror of his deed and the accuracy of the witches who earlier predict this murder and other happenings in his life. A tragic hero, Macbeth dies at the hand of the patriot Macduff. bd

editorial

Dordt College--Free Or CRC

The interview with Rev. Richard De Ridder, President of the Board of Trustees, describes for us the present situation of the relations of the Christian Reformed Church to Dordt College. And that is, that Dordt College, a college supposedly owned and operated by a free society of Christians concerned with Christian higher education, is in reality practically owned and operated by the Christian Reformed Church classes of the area.

One objection which we raise against this scheme is that although students and professors of other denominational persuasion may study and teach here, the policies of the Board have almost excluded the possibility of other than Christian Reformed personnel sitting on the Board and helping administrate the College. The Board is airtightly Christian Reformed. This means that students who belong to the Orthodox Presbyterian or Reformed Church in the U.S. (who constitute a rather large minority at Dordt) have no representation on the Board, even if they are from the five state area. We do not feel that this is fair to them, nor is it fair to their parents, who have sent them to Dordt for a Christian education.

Our second objection is that, the church and college are too close, as has been said above. One good example of this is the requirement for student membership in a local church. When deciding the church to which he wants his student membership sent, a student from either the Orthodox Presbyterian or Reformed Church in the U.S. must send his membership to either Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center. We also do not feel that this is fair to these people.

We do realize that the only people who did have an interest in Dordt from its inception have been those who were members of the Christian Reformed Church. But it is time for these people to realize that a desire for Christian education, does and has run across denominational ties. In word they seem to realize that this is happening, but in deed they seem to have forgotten the fact. The move towards establishing districts exclusively according to Christian Reformed Classes seems to be a backward step, to say the least.

We also feel that the Board should take steps within the year to include people other than Christian Reformed on the Board. This could be achieved. And then, as a matter of principle, we could really be a college owned and operated by a free society, within the educational sphere, and outside the ecclesiastical sphere. And we also might gain some more needed educational freedom of thought.

Christmas Vacation=Relaxation! (?)

Christmas vacation was smashing! Two weeks of recuperation from frenzied test preparing and paper writing. Two weeks of rest to stabilize our minds and get ready for a long vacationless stretch until spring. Two weeks of strategy planning for meaningful activity in 1970.

If that sounds like your vacation, you are one of the gloriously liberated few who did not have to prepare for tests and write papers for the two-week cram period between Christmas "vacation" and final exams. A typical Christmas-day schedule may have been: 6:30-8:30: study; 8:30-10:30: attend Christmas public worship service; 10:45-12:00: study; 12:00-1:45: Christmas dinner; 2:00-5:00: study; 5:15-6:30: leftovers for supper; 6:45-12:00: study. Christmas vacation 1969--an exercise in preparation for the semester's end.

Although the semester system is highly inflexible, some steps should be taken to conclude 1970's course activities in 1970--not in the third week of 1971. If Dordt College's academic year would begin only a week or two earlier in the Fall, the semester's conclusion and the beginning of Christmas vacation could conceivably be simultaneous. Of course, such a change may present problems but they are certainly not insurmountable.

In informal questioning students express nearly unanimous consensus favoring a truly free vacation with a complete unfragmented semester behind them. A responsible discussion with the proper authorities about the practicality of a new beginning after a genuinely refreshing vacation will be definitely constructive.

the diamond

Published fortnightly by the students of Dordt College under the financial auspices of the Student Council. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or administration. Subscriptions available at \$2 per academic year, September to May. Address all correspondence to The Diamond, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250.

Editor: Rich Ter Maat

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For Our "Prayerful Consideration"

Dear Editor;

I was quite impressed by the different views expressed in the Dordt College paper, regarding the pros and cons of dancing, folk dancing, etc. I have no right to condemn but I offer these thoughts for your prayerful consideration.

Does it make a difference how well you love someone how well you try to please him? Jesus said, "If you love me keep my commandments." Does not the burden of proof lie with the doer of a questionable thing and not with the person who does not do a particular thing? Let those who advocate dancing as harmless bring some Bible verses which give them permission to dance. Where is the Bible license? The Bible has many "Thus saith the Lord" quotes, but how does one tie dancing on or into any one of them? Do people today want to be Christians in appearance and not pay the price of putting self last?

Dancing is defined by many authorities as a language (Encyclopedia Americana). What is dancing saying to you? Through you? Can you use it as a way to win someone to Christ? Could you lead someone to sin using it? Is it love, fear, or gratitude that motivates Christians to be disturbed by the following quotes? Or is it a lack of knowledge or a desire to go one's own way to close our minds to the questionables? What does this say to you? "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee?", "Be ye imitators of me as I am of Christ", "Be ye holy as I am holy". If I can't do this thing in good faith it is sin. Is this a step towards a more spiritual life? God put us here to praise Him, to learn more about Him; is this a good way? Are these statements impossible to obey? With Christ, no.

I have seen wrong in dancing before I was a Christian and played an instrument in a band and it hurts me to see church people so mixed up on this question. Have we failed to study the Bible to discern, or do we lack the desire to please God? It is not too late to try, young person; Christians are the happiest people in the world because they try to please God. Phil. 4:8 should put dancing in the black area and not the overcrowded gray area of today. Forwarned is forarmed.

Sincerely,
Arie J. Olivier
Sioux Center

We wish to thank Mr. Olivier for his concern and for taking the time to communicate it to us. We feel that we at Dordt should, however, look more seriously at the dance. A fine series of articles have appeared in the October and December issues of Credo magazine. We urge all students interested in dance as an art form to read these informative articles. Issues of Credo may be found in the library. Ed.

(Teachers, cont.

(Olthuis, cont. from p.1)

books, and magazines. "If we live to consume, we follow a death vision," Olthuis said.

In concluding, Olthuis stated that "the vision of the coming of the Kingdom should determine everything." The only way a Christian family can survive, he concluded, "is by recognizing the invaders and realizing that in Christ they are defeated."

The next lecture in the Discovery I series will be on Wednesday, February 18, and will feature Dr. Gordon Spykman of Calvin College. He will speak on the topic "The Family in Society."

from p.1)

dary education, Dr. Veltkamp gives two reasons why he sees this as a trend: The demand for secondary teachers has been steadily diminishing in recent years and the need for elementary teachers with a college degree has been growing rapidly.

Schools involved in this year's teacher training include Ashton, Boyden-Hull, Central Lyon, West Lyon, George, Maurice, Hull Christian, Western Christian, Floyd Valley, Maurice-Orange City, Orange City Christian, Rock Valley public and Christian, Sioux Center public and Christian, Ireton, Sheldon public, Sibley, Unity Christian, and Southwestern Christian.

jvb

Students, Homesteaders

Enjoy Weekly Fellowship

Started by a Community Recreation class last year, the Homestead Program is being continued in the '69-'70 year as a voluntary organization. According to Dr. Frank Calsbeek, advisor of the group, between five and ten students participate in the programs held every Tuesday evening at 7:00 when about thirty residents of the housing complex on Meadow Drive meet in the Homestead Recreation room.

The program was featured in an article, "Adding Life to Years," which appeared in The Bulletin of The Institute of Gerontology last spring. It said that both the students and the elderly residents are given something to look forward to; the students find the elderly intriguing, with character and an outlook on life which they had not appreciated before.

The activities vary greatly from week to week. The first program this year on November 18 was a Dutch Sing-a-long. In the weeks that followed Mr. Harvey De Jager from Hope Haven gave a talk, and a hilarious skit night was held. Prior to Christmas, an evening was spent making and hanging Christmas decorations on a tree in the recreation room; the next week carolling filled the evening. Most recently Miss Ida Van Riter, a dietitian presently attending Dordt, discussed nutrition. This week Dr. E.J.G. Bloemendale demonstrated his work with pedigree fish.

Planned events include a crazy hat contest, a group game night, slides on Alaska shown by Dordt Senior Jim Dehne, and a Homestead talent night.

After each meeting, students and Senior Citizens mingle over Homesteaders' baked goodies and coffee.

Dugout

Offers Book Exchange

The door to the Refor-mational Dugout is again open today after temporarily closing for inventory. Books for second semester courses can be obtained at the regular hours which are 3:00 to 10:00 pm on Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 10:00 pm on Saturday.

This week a special for Dordt students has been initiated by the Dugout. From now through the first week of the second semester facilities will be set up at the Dugout for students interested in selling used textbooks and paperbacks. Students can thus sell books without the markup placed by the campus bookstore. The book exchange is intended as a service for both students interested in buying and selling books they no longer need.

The Dugout would like to thank all the students who contributed to "Operation Cablegram." Plans are being made to prepare a folder for distribution to at least three area colleges. A total of

Student Council

Invites Seerveld To Present Play

Representing the Social Activities Committee, Brad Breems appeared at the January 7 Student Council meeting, informing the members that on March 7, Dr. Calvin Seerveld of Trinity Christian College, will come to Dordt's campus. He and his cast will present the play, "The Greatest Song," from his translation of The Song of Solomon. The Council agreed to pay the expenses for their Saturday trip.

Action on other business to be taken up was delayed until after the new semester has started. At the next meeting, Dordt's dress code, semester system and Homecoming (set up for February 28) will be discussed.

\$140 was pledged although as yet not all of this amount has been collected. Those who still want to fulfill their pledge may bring it to the Dugout.

Campus Slacks Scheme

Explained

KDCR's 7:00 a.m. news and weather report may deserve the "most listened to radio program" award from the female segment of Dordt's student body.

The advent of very cold weather commenced a new policy from the Dean of Students, Dr. G. Rozeboom. When KDCR's 7:00 a.m. weather gives a current temperature of ten below zero or less, wind-chill factor or straight reading, girls are encouraged to dress warmly. In other words, girls may then wear slacks to class, to the library, and to meals.

Dr. Rozeboom reports that the Administration recognized that it simply was not sensible to expect girls to walk to campus with bare legs in the middle of an Iowa winter. Neither is it feasible for the office to call all the apartments and houses to tell girls that "it's cold today, so you may wear slacks." "Wear slacks when it is cold" was considered but thrown out on the advice of some Senior girls who pointed out that it is really too arbitrary. (Winter is cold.) They suggested the adopted, rather more specific rule.

When the wind-chill factor hit 55 below, many girls appreciated and exercised their new alternative. They reportedly found it much warmer than mini-skirts.

What about maxi-coats and the coming maxi-skirts? Dr. Rozeboom is worried mostly about the increased dry-cleaning bills. In his words, "we

'Come the Day'

Hits Over 8,000

The Folk Society's first stereo LP record, "Come the Day," is out and reports have shown that over 8,000 records have been sold through the advertising of the Young Calvinist, the magazine of the Young Calvinist Federation.

The record went on sale on Dordt's campus two days before Christmas vacation and already more than 400 records have been sold here. Dordt College, offering to help with the sales, purchased 250 records and also received 250 more on consignment. According to the business office, the record "was a big hit for a couple of days." Those two days before vacation caused "a rush in the business office." The sales have gone down since the record first came out, so Mr. Boersma urges the students to "keep up that rush and buy some more."

The Diamond, interested in the Folk Society's reaction to their own record, talked to Dale Bovenkamp, member of the group who plays drums and string bass. He said, "It seems kids like it. We're really happy with the record--the recording was done well."

When asked further about the group, Dale continued, "We're hoping that our next record will be as good and that the kids will like it as well."

The "new" Folk Society which plans to cut their next record next week, has attained two new members. Steve Postema and Janice Rienstra have taken the place of Seniors Quentin Van Essen and Barb Kuiper. These new members, along with the other five members -- Bob Vander Plaats, Dave Postema, Glenda Buys, John Hull, and Dale Bovenkamp--plan to go to Grand Rapids over semester break to cut their next record with the Disciple Recording Company.

As a member of the CMA (Colleges of Mid-America), Dordt College will participate in a number of exchange recitals and lectures. Miss Joan Ringerwole, Instructor of Music, will give a recital under this program at Huron College, Huron, South Dakota, on January 23.

Her recital will include works by Walther, Sweelinch, Langlais, J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Peppeing, and Messiaen. The composers range from Baroque to contemporary. Miss Ringerwole informed the Diamond that the recital

(Please turn to page 6)

Ringerwole

To Play In CMA Exchange

Calendar

January 19	1:30 pm	Concordia Band, Auditorium.
	8:00 pm	Review Day--No classes.
January 20-22		Community Concert--The Corman, Northwestern Auditorium.
January 20	7:00 pm	Testing.
January 23-26		Practice teachers meet.
January 27	7:35 am	Semester break, no classes.
January 28	7:00 pm	Classes begin for second semester.
January 29	7:30 pm	Basketball--Northwestern College,
January 30		Signet group pictures taken, West wing of Commons.
January 31	8:00 pm	Phi Kappa Sigma meeting, C106.
February 3		Basketball--Bethel College, away.
February 6	8:00	Folk Society Benefit Concert for Hope Haven, Gymn.
		Basketball--Pillsbury College, away.
		Basketball--Briar Cliff College, away.
		Morningside String Trio, Choral Room.
		Basketball--St. Paul Concordia College, away.

DeRidder Discusses

by Rich Ter Maat

Dordt-CRC Ties

Diamond: Rev. De Ridder, in your position as President of the Board of Trustees, what are your feelings about the relationship of the church to the college?

De Ridder: Of course, Dordt College officially isn't a church school. Dordt is independent, supposedly, of the church. However, constitutionally it obviously is closely connected with the Christian Reformed Church since its constituency and its supporting constituency particularly is exclusively from the Christian Reformed Church and its board members are all members of the Christian Reformed Church. I feel that in the initial stages of the development of the college until the present time this was not only necessary, but even essential. However, one wonders sometimes whether there wouldn't be some value in looking into extending the control of the operation of the college to include other groups who have officially endorsed Dordt as the college for their churches and for their students to go to. I'm thinking, for example, of what would happen if we would offer, let's say, a position on the Board or on the voting board to a representative or two from the German Reformed (Reformed Church in the U.S.) or the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, both of which churches send us quite a number of students and show continued and increasing interest in the college.

Diamond: Do you think that this will eventually happen?

De Ridder: I can't predict whether this will eventually happen, but I would like to throw it out as an area of study. The Board is concerned about the amount of support which we are receiving from these churches. In spite of their indorsement of the college, it hasn't increased as much as it ought to have, considering the number of students we get from them. Perhaps we're at fault in that we don't allow these churches much of a voice in helping us determine policy and the operation of the school.

Diamond: Have these groups made any moves in the past to place members on the Board?

De Ridder: Not to my knowledge. There has been no attempt to do this. That's why I said that I think it would be an area worth studying and looking at so that we ourselves know whether or not the direction of the past is the one that we want to be committed to, or whether these are some exciting possibilities for the future.

Diamond: In a college which is operated by a free society, what role should the college take in regulating the spiritual life of the students?

De Ridder: Actually, of course, the churches don't have any direct "say" in such things as spiritual life, conduct of the students or, let's say, matters of dress or things like this. Whatever is said, I would say, is communicated through the voting member's board, the Board of Trustees or through direct representation to the college on a one-to-one basis. I think the decision of square-skipping was an illustration of the problem that we have here. A particular classis had a position and it so happened that Dordt College was in the area of that classis. It was very fine that Student Council took account of the fact that classis had such a decision contrary to it. But that the college in itself would be bound to the decision of such a classis? No, I would not agree to this at all.

Diamond: What do you feel would have happened if Student Council would not have contacted classis, but would have gone on their own?

De Ridder: I doubt very much whether more than two or three individuals would ever have remembered a decision made by the classis that long ago.

Diamond: In the By-Laws of the college, the division of districts is made along the lines of the six surrounding classes of the Chris-



Rev. Richard De Ridder, former pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center and President of the Dordt Board of Trustees, is presently serving as pastor of the Christian Reformed mission church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Rev. De Ridder was interviewed by The Diamond shortly before his departure from the area.—Ed.

tian Reformed Church. This arrangement is perhaps most convenient, but wouldn't it be possible to make other boundaries?

De Ridder: The arrangement of the districts to which you refer is a very recent innovation. We did have eight districts which did not parallel the geographic divisions of our classes. But we found that as a result of that, certain classes had far more representation in the voting members board than did other classes. I'd like to give you an illustration. According to the old districts (when we had

eight districts), there are sixty-four voting members. Classis Sioux Center, because it was divided up into three districts, had sixteen members on the voting members board so that one-fourth of all voting members were from churches within Classis Sioux Center. This, we felt, was not fair representation to other churches and other areas which were just as committed to the college and just as responsible for it. So it was for the sake of ease of contact, representation, and the quality of representation that we are instituting this change and making six districts out of the eight. In March of next year this goes into effect and is a purely administrative thing as far as the Board is concerned. We can report this way to the classes and we know that since the churches of the six classes are the supporting constituency, we believe that each of the six classes will have equal representation of its membership.

Diamond: How are students who belong to German Reformed or Orthodox Presbyterian Churches in the five state area covered by the districts represented? Or aren't they?

De Ridder: Young People who come from a non-Christian Reformed background have no representation in our districts. There is no districts that includes non-Christian Reformed churches. This is one of the things that I had in mind earlier. At least in the voting members it might be well that the board should institute such a study and see whether, at least in part, if the control of college, or the board representation could include some of these groups.

Diamond: So we are pretty much bound to the church in reality?

De Ridder: Yes, in this sense, that the six classes of this area are the ones from whom our membership is drawn. We made one innovation two years ago in that we included certain advisory members from other areas. For example, we have a large number of students from Colorado, California, Washington, Wisconsin. Today we have three advisory members of the Board who are chosen from the Lynden, Washington area; Denver, Colorado and from Wisconsin. These men meet with the Board twice a year and are available for contact, assistance, and advice. This is a step to give the people in those areas someone through whom their voice and influence can be heard. I wonder whether this kind of direction might not be a good thing in approaching some of the other churches from other denominations.

Diamond: What is the Board's reason behind requiring one-third of the voting members to be clergy?

De Ridder: Constitutionally there can never be a majority of ministers on the Board of Trustees. This is different than, for example, a denominational college like Calvin College which is largely dominated by clergymen. We do not permit more than three of the nine voting members from each of the six districts to be ministers. So the voting members can never have more than one-third ministers.

'Midnight Cowboy' Leaves Despair

by Dave DeGroot

Take two men--one a young lover-boy simpleton fresh from cow-country, and the other a smelly, ridiculous little con-man from the Big City--turn them loose in an incredibly vicious, sexually-perverted society, and you have on hand all the ingredients for a fourth-rate novel or an X-rated moving picture. Film files are filled with celluloid trash based on just such characters and situations. "Midnight Cowboy," a moving picture released last year by United Artists, would seem at a glance to be the latest offering among the unraveling reels of dollar-oriented naughty films; it sports the unholy Motion Picture Code "X," it deals with various unhappy perversions, and it uncovers some vast expanses of the human body in living color.

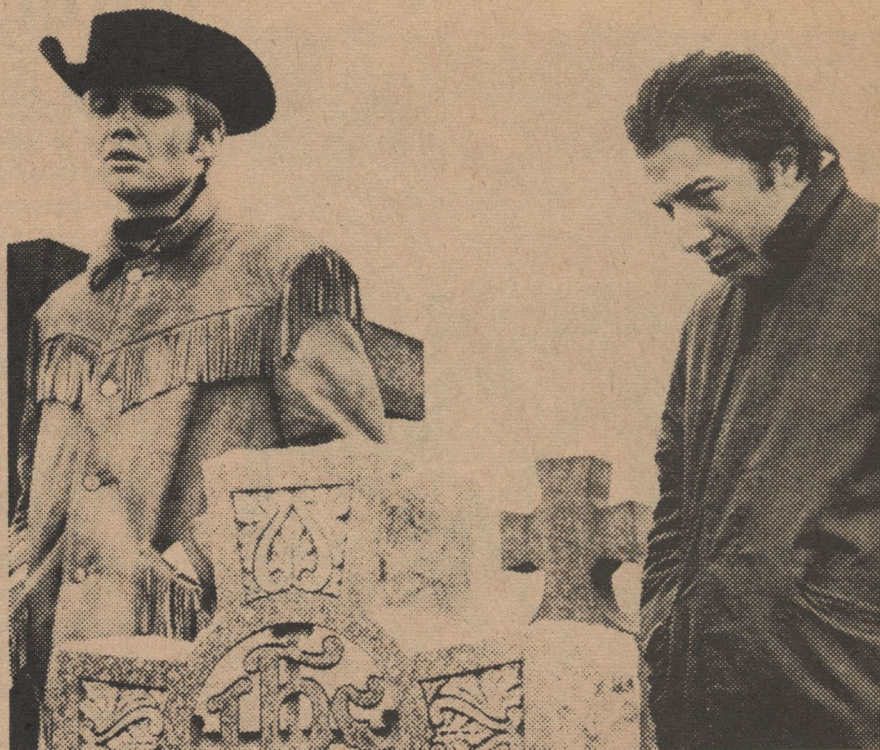
But "Midnight Cowboy" is also on the verge of becoming the first X-rated film to win the brightest bauble Hollywood gives to its brainchildren, the Academy Award. At this writing it is in strong contention for the big prize in the categories "best picture," "best directing." Whatever we happen to think of the state of modern American film art or The Academy Award, we can hardly ignore a film that Hollywood holds up as a superior product of the year 1969. "Midnight Cowboy" has effected millions of people.

What gives the film its impact? Can a Christian learn anything constructive from it?

The story line of the film is certainly not its strength. Two ill-starred losers meet in New York City, scrape their way through the social dregs, attempt to raise themselves from their garbage-heap existence, reach ultimate failure, then migrate to a promised land which offers only unhappiness and death. End of film. No hope. Taken by itself, the plot is unoriginal, depressing and trite. And it is oh-so common among the artistic productions of recent years.

The acting of John Voight and Dustin Hoffman is generally conceded to be some of the finest seen in recent years. Voight, playing Joe Buck, the cute cowboy, swaggers and struts into the city in pursuit of the rich women he has read about. "I'm a truly dangerous man, I am!" But he finds the going tough. By the end of the movie, after he realizes that only the low bidders are interested in the goods he wants to sell, his strut fades into the indistinct walk of a suburbanite. Hoffman, as the consumptive little cripple, "Ratso" Rizzo, burns his image into the mind. Beaten down time and time again, reduced by "fate" to a yellow-toothed, rat-like animal, he still nourishes twisted dreams of health and prosperity and success. His jaunty and pathetic limp, a sort of double-hitch hip-swing, is a work of art by itself.

"Midnight Cowboy" is carefully constructed to produce a single



impression. It succeeds remarkably, and in a way which relegates companion films such as "Alice's Restaurant" or "Easy Rider" to the level of common cheap-thrill entertainment. When the house lights go on after the show you are left with a real feeling of deep, deep despair. Despair that can not be laughed away. The world is dirty and sinister and cruel, men are pawns swept about by gusts of foul air, and a person has no hope of saving himself. It is sad and frightening. And from this incredibly hard impression of despair comes the value of the movie.

The humanist will probably walk away from the theater with resolutions to reach out and touch someone--to establish personal contact with another bewildered pilgrim in the chaotic world. The close personal relationship of Ratso and Joe (one of the few things in their world that was untainted by sexual perversion) seemed to be the only reality for them.

The Christian will view "Midnight Cowboy" as a powerful call to reach others with the message of an ordered, God-centered universe for those who base their lives on Christ. The movie is not a put-on--it reflects the deep despair that is so real to many people. People like Ratso and Joe. People like those who live next to us. People we don't really want to try to understand. People we would rather ignore. This writer has no difficulty imagining "Midnight Cowboy" or a similar film being shown in some kind of mission program to prepare an audience for the wonderful message of hope in Christ.

"All My Sons" Points Up Man's Inadequacy

by James Mahaffy

The Thalias latest production, "All My Sons" by Arthur Miller will long linger in the minds of the audience. The effective presentation of its theme of hopelessness so moves them that they could scarcely applaud the actors skill. Tragically the play presented a "good", which could not be freed from the resisting web of a decadent society. This good is not a selfish concern for oneself, his family or even religion (or "Christian direction") which through Kate is portrayed as deceptive and useless as Frank's superstitious astrology. The redemptive factor for Miller is only an unselfish responsibility to mankind as a whole. Credit for this excellent conveyance of the theme must be due in large part to the effective type casting of the director, Mr. Koldenhoven and the stage manager, Carol Hoekman.

Duane Nieuwsma effectively portrayed Joe Keller with a deep voice and an acting ability that made him appear to be the old man. His wife Kate was a difficult part to act with her almost split personality. Carol Addink, however, can be commended for her skillful interpretation of this schizophrenic personality. Except for an occasional relapse the difficult switches were "natural". The role of their idealistic son, Chris, was well enacted by Bill De Jager. His lover Ann (Judy Rosenburger) was well cast for her part, appearing consistently as the trusting sweet Ann. The minor support for this action was rather weak at times early in the play, but strengthened in the latter part. Two of the minor actors who deserve special commendation are Sandy Matheis and Bob Grotenhuis. Sandy was the perfect scolding wife and Bob, though only eleven, acted the typical imaginative youngster needed for Keller's fantasy world.

This panorama of action can never be thought to encompass the whole production. It can perhaps best be compared to the visible portion of an iceberg. The whole production is missed if the viewer fails to appreciate the submerged portion behind the curtains: the diverse action that bouys up and forms that appearing on the stage. Initially there was a scurry of activity: adding of makeup, adjusting of hair, checking connections (auto horn) changing of costumes. An air of tension is felt in the mumble of lines, cracked joke, or apparent calm. It continues with the rise of the curtain as the actors sense the audience's response and their fel-

low actors spirit, and it results in an acting within the spirit of the play. No longer speaking memorized lines in dictated settings, the actors covered a missed entrance Monday night so effectively that it went unnoticed.

The best action on stage, however, would have lacked force without technical support. The stage, makeup, and costume bore evidence to their careful preparation, in setting the author's theme in its proper time and place. A little inconsistency in the style of clothing did not hinder the effective portrayal of the late 40's. The light crew also, in spite of an occasional slowness focused attention on the actor's action. The innovation of a double screen and lighting to produce the figure of a broken tree in the tension of the arguments was an excellent aid in deepening the drama, though its effectiveness was perhaps lessened through repetition.

In short the total production of the Thalias portrayed vividly in two hours some of the basic ills of society and the inadequate solution man has for them.

From The "Rock" Files

There is a rumor in the education department that Boston, like democracy, is a state of mind. Has somebody in Massachusetts been fibbing all these years?

There is a rumor among the student body that the education department is likewise a state of mind. Anyone who can tell us whose mind will be awarded a gift-wrapped world atlas. If no one claims the prize, the education department is programmed to self-destruct.

Dordt Defenders Sport 6-5 Record



The Defenders are holding a 6 win 5 loss record after two consecutive wins over Huron College, 71-65, and St. Paul Concordia, 85-58. Preceding these two victories, the Defenders had lost four games in a row, after an easy 91-73 win over Martin Luther College.

The win over Huron College, Wednesday, January 7, broke the Defenders' four game losing streak. The Defenders, playing catch up ball the majority of the game, pulled the game out after trailing by four with three minutes to play.

Larry Louters, playing a great all-around game, led the Defenders with 28 big points followed by Ter-

ry Van Hofwegen with 20.

The Defenders bombed St. Paul Concordia, January 10, by the score of 85-57. The Dordt team, playing great ball for the first five minutes but then bogging down, coasted to the easy victory.

Louters led the scoring attack with 23 points followed by Van Hofwegen with 19 and Rog Walstra with 10. Walstra also did a great job on the boards picking off 20 rebounds.

Dordt notched their first easy win of the year, a 91-75 triumph, over Martin Luther College of New Ulm, Minnesota, December 11. The Defenders grabbing the lead right from the start, played reserves about half the game.

Louters again led scoring by making 19 points, with Warren Vander Pol, Marly Broek, and Steve Crull scoring 16, 15, and 10 points respectively.

The four game losing streak began with the 81-78 loss to Dana College from Blair, Nebraska, December 16. The game was evenly played with no team ever leading by more than six points.

Terry Van Hofwegen led the scoring attack with 28 points. Larry Louters and Rog Walstra added 19 points respectively.

Sioux Falls College dumped the Defenders 86-58 at Dordt's gymnasium, December 18. The Defenders, who played their worst game of the year, were outplayed in every phase of the game. Terry Van Hofwegen was the only Dordt player in double figures with 13 points.

Dordt's last two losses were in the Westmar Invitational Holiday Tournament played January 2 and 3 at LeMars. The Defenders played both games without the services of Terry Van Hofwegen. Warren Vander Pol also was side-lined some of the first and most of the second game with a sprained ankle suffered in the first tournament game.

On Friday, January 2, Lea College of Albert Lee, Minnesota defeated the Defenders 78-62. The Defenders, shooting 36% from the field, were unable to play good consistent ball. They trailed throughout the entire game.

Louters led the team with 22 points. Vander Pol followed with 13.

The final loss came at the hands of Bethel College, the team Dordt opened the season against with a 72-57 triumph. Bethel led throughout the entire game and won 59-56. A strong Dordt comeback attempt with about 12 minutes left on the clock fell short.

Larry Louters tallied 17 points followed by Arlo Kreun, playing in place of Terry Van Hofwegen, who netted 12 along with Marly Broek's 11. du

(CMA, cont'd from p. 3) tal will be given in the Emmanuel Luther Church on a three-manual Schartz pipe organ.

The program to be given in exchange for this recital has not yet been announced. dws

hockey fans, the Sioux Center Blades can enjoy a good season of hockey.

Exams Fill Final Semester Days

The Diamond has compiled the following exam schedule. Courses are given by department and number rather than name to save space. Also, it is assumed that the room in which the class usually meets will be the room used for the test.

Tuesday, Jan. 20
7:30-9:30 am

Bible 302 A
Biology 101 A
Chemistry 301
Education 346
English 207 A
German 101 A
History 301
Music 203
Music 301
Philosophy 301
Psychology 301 A
Psychology 206A

10:00-12:00 am

Bible 201 A
Biology 115
Biology 301
Business Adm. 201 A
English 312
English 318
German 201 B
History 101 B
Latin 201
Mathematics 301
Philosophy 303
Phys. Educ. 105 B

1:00-3:00 pm

Biology 200
Biology 211
Business Adm. 101
Dutch 101
English 201 C
English 207 B
German 101 D
Mathematics 112
Philosophy 309
Phys. Educ. 201
Phys. Science 101 A
Physics 308
Speech 301

3:30-5:30 pm

Bible 201 C
Business Adm. 201 B
Education 343
German 207
Greek 101
Mathematics 106
Philosophy 201 B
Phys. Educ. 203

Wednesday, Jan. 21
7:30-9:30 am

Bible 101 A
Bible 101 B
Chemistry 205
Education 203 A
English 201 A
German 201 A
Greek 301
History 305
Music 315
Philosophy 201 A
Phys. Educ. 105 A

10:00-12:00 am

Bible 302 B
Biology 101 B
Chemistry 201
Music 207
German 101 C
German 201 C
Greek 201
History 201 A
English 317
Physics 103 A
Sociology 203
Speech 201 A

1:00-3:00 pm

Bible 201 B
Biology 351
Business Adm. 205
Education 340
English 263
English 315
German 101 E
History 201 B
Latin 101
Mathematics 311
Music 103
Phys. Education 207

3:30-5:30 pm

English 301
History 209
Political Sci. 201
Speech 201 C

Thursday, Jan. 22
7:30-9:30 am

Biology 235
Chemistry 103
Economics 201
Education 201 A
Education 342
Education 344
English 201 B
German 101B
German 107
History 101 A
Mathematics 304
Music 311
Psychology 201 B

10:00-12:00 am

Dutch 201
Education 201 B
Education 203 B
Phys. Educ. 105 C
German 201 D
German 307
History 207
Mathematics 206
English 101 A
Physics 201
Sociology 201
Speech 201 B

1:00-3:00 pm

Education 102
English 101 B
German 305
Mathematics 201
Philosophy 305
Psychology 206 B

3:30-5:30

Education 323
German 314
History 203
Music 313
Phy. Sci. 101 B
Physics 103 B

S.C. Blades To

Shove Off

Season

The Sioux Center Blades announced Tuesday that they have arranged their first game of the year. The Blades will meet the hockey team from Drake University in Des Moines. The game will take place in Des Moines on Saturday, January 3, at 4:00.

Once again, ice hockey has become a reality at Dordt. An organized team has been formed with Mr. C. Boot accepting the position of Advisor-Coach. Working with Boot in coaching assistance and overall organization are co-captains Keith Vanderzwan and Herm Van Niejenhuis. Other positions were accepted by Henry Knoop as General Manager and Wayne Siebenga as Secretary-Treasurer.

Although the facilities are limited at Sioux Center, the team is utilizing the ice at the City Park for practice sessions. Correspondence with the Iowa Collegiate Hockey League has been contacted and one can expect to see some more brutalizing hockey as was experienced last year when playing this team.

The use of facilities at Sioux City has been granted from 9:30 to 11:30 on the Saturday morning of January 24, but whether it will be a practise game or skating party has not been decided. Although the skill and ability of the team as a whole is limited, the spirit and zest is more than present. With united support of Dordt's